



2008 Church Conference Agenda

Call to Worship

One: Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which someone took and sowed in the field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. [Matthew 13: 31-32].

All: **Jesus calls us as disciples, to leave the familiar and embrace challenge and change!**

One: To seek the way of Christ and engage the word of God!

All: **To equip God’s people for ministry and to deploy them in mission and service!**

One: Our ministry begins by planting seeds of hope, love, mercy, and grace.

All: **Yet, God will give the growth, and our witness will become a tree with many branches, bearing fruit for all to eat. The harvest will be bountiful as we serve God’s people in all places in the name of Christ! Amen!**

Hymn As a Fire Was Meant for Burning Faith We Sing #2237

Alternative Suggestions:

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (#584 UMH),
Gather Us In (#2236 FWS),
Walk With Me (#2242 FWS), or Other Hymns of Your Choice.

Opening Prayer: Led by Lay Leader or Lay Member to Annual Conference

Scripture: (choose one)

- **Acts 8: 26-40**

“..Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus...”

- **Luke 19: 1-10**

“...Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today...”

Message: Video / Story District Superintendent / Presiding Elder

Signs of Healthy Christian Discipleship

(Superintendent/presiding elder asks persons to share brief witnesses of healthy discipleship in which persons are seeking, engaging, empowering, and deploying in mission and ministry)

Response after each sharing: **Thanks be to God for the growth. Amen.**

Prayer for Growth and Fruitfulness (*unison, led by Superintendent or Presiding Elder*)

God of visions yet planted, we praise you because you always fulfill your promises of seed and harvest. Thank you for your abundant creation and plentiful gifts. In your generosity, you have called us to be faithful stewards in your vineyard. We confess that often we have ignored your call to be disciples of Jesus. We have failed to plant seeds, to nurture others, and to gather the harvest. Forgive us, we pray, and send your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may faithfully seek your way, engage your Word, equip your people, and deploy ourselves and others for the work of justice, love, and peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus Calls Us (UMH # 398)

Alternative suggestions: UMH #399 Take My Life and Let It Be UMH# 413 A Charge to Keep I Have
Mil Voces Para Celebrar #291 or UMH#583 Sois la Semilla
Faith We Sing #2177 Wounded World That Cries for Healing
Faith We Sing #2172 We Are Called
Korean English Hymnal #28 Abiding in the Vine

Reports from the Fields of Discipleship and Mission

A. Staff-Parish Relations Committee

1. Clergy Compensation Form / Clergy Compensation Agreement
2. Pastoral Profile – acknowledge
3. Recommendations and Reports to Charge Conference:
 - Candidates in Ordained Ministry (should be present and/or have written report)
 - Lay Speakers /local and certified (forms are required for this action)
 - Small Group certified ministers (forms are required for this action)

B. Finance/Stewardship Committee

1. 2008 Apportionment (& Rainbow Covenant) Update/How are we supporting mission?
2. Budget for 2009 (if available)
3. Stewardship Campaign Report
 - What program are you using to strengthen the annual mission and ministry budget?
 - Are you doing training, preaching, and education related to stewardship?

C. Membership Secretary

1. Church Membership Roll - Are there names to be read? To be lifted?
2. Recommended prayer-Dist. Supt. , Pastor, or Presiding Elder if names are removed.
3. General Membership Report

D. Board of Trustees

1. Trustee's Report – acknowledge
2. Parsonage – Is there an annual inspection of parsonage?
3. Other Reports: Endowments, Bequests, Building, Construction, Purchase and Sales.

E. Report of the Clergy and Diaconal Ministers

Celebrating Healthy Discipleship Through Leadership and Vision

1. Lay Leadership Presentation (formerly Nomination Committee Report)
2. Congregation's Ministry Plan and other Vision Plans
3. NCD (Natural Church Development) Status Report

Closing Prayer

District Superintendent/Presiding Elder

Hymn

Sent Out In Jesus Name (Faith We Sing #2184)

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
To make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes(repeat)

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O help us to obey and carry out your will.

Alternative suggestions: UMH #583 Sois la semilla UMH# 568 Christ for the World We Sing
Mil Voces Para Celebrar # 294 Usa Mi Vida
Korean English Hymnal #271 Here Am I, Send Me

Sending Forth

Pastor

